DEWAN : Important roads such as the Shencottah-Quilon road and the Shencottah-Courtallam road will continue in the hands of the Government. Only minor roads were proposed to be handed over. Government regret that the Municipality is not agreeable to take over even the minor roads. Alleppey, Nagercoil and some other Municipalities have agreed to take over such roads and it is open to you to do likewise.

You want drains to be constructed on both sides of the Quilon-Shencottah road. No resolution on the subject seems to have been passed by the Municipality. Nevertheless, the Chief Engineer will be asked to submit an estimate in the matter.

As regards the supply of good drinking water, it is a very important question. There have been frequent outbreaks of cholera and other epidemics in Shencottah. No doubt, Shencottah stands in need of good drinking water. For the supply of pipe water, a large amount of capital expenditure may be necessary. I do not know whether the Municipality will be able to bear the whole or at least a portion of the cost. Shencottah has only a population of 15,000; and for this population alone, a sum running into lakhs cannot be spent on a water supply scheme. So, the best thing will be to sink wells. The Sanitary Commissioner has been asked to report on the subject. The Municipal Council has also been addressed in the matter. The Government are prepared to advance a loan to meet the outlay required.

With regard to the Suppanchetti bridge, an estimate is being prepared. There is no necessity for a separate bridge either here or across the Kundar. I have myself gone over the bridges and do not think they should be replaced by new bridges, which mean a good deal of expenditure.

As regards the site for the municipal office in the Cutcherry compound, according to the rules, land can be given to the Municipality under certain conditions, *e. g.*, that the site in question should be utilised for the purpose for which it is granted. If the Municipality is agreeable to this, it may apply to the Peishkar and the site will be handed over to it, if available for assignment. I believe the Government have already asked the Council to apply to the Peishkar for the land under the Land Alienation Rules.

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27. Needs of Tiruvalla.

MR. C. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) invited the attention of the Government to the scarcity of water in the Tiruvalla town. The branch of the Manimala river, flowing along the southern and western sides of the town, dried up during summer; and the people in the neighbourhood were not only deprived of water for irrigation purposes and of facilities for water transport, but suffered great hardship by not getting good water for drinking and bathing. Owing to the paucity of bridges, through road communication to Kayankulam was impossible and the town was for a great part of the year inaccessible. He urged the need for undertaking some work which would provide a perennial supply of water in that river. The construction of a canal from Mukkanjarattu bend below the Tondara bridge in a north-westerly direction to Chirappad on the south of the mission bungalow at Tukalasseri would, without much cost, secure the object. The improvement of Brahmaswom *todu* and Mannara *todu* was necessary for the cultivation of *punja* lands. A canal could be opened from the Ketayil bend to the place known as Manippuzha Munnattummuyappinkal. The Chief Engineer had examined the proposal and the people were ready to give gratis a good portion of the lands required for the work.

There were not many good roads in the town. Most of the roads were narrow and contained steep gradients. The Muriappalam on the road from the Tiruvalla temple to Tukalasseri was in a dangerous condition and required repair or reconstruction. The approaches to the bridge were under water during the rainy season and their level should be raised. The ryots' road joining the main road should be taken up by the P. W. Department for maintenance.

Kannanchirappalam, a furlong to the south of the temple, was in a dilapidated condition. An estimate had been prepared for the work, which should be expedited, as accidents were common.

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The village road, about two furlongs long, running from the northern side of the temple to meet the Mavelikara road, was under water during winter and the Perumpalam on it was in a deplorable condition. The level of the road should be raised and the bridge reconstructed.

The village road on the northern and western sides of the Tiruvalla temple was in a very neglected condition.

A bridge should be constructed across the Peringara river on the road to Meprayil branching off from the Tiruvalla-Changanachery road.

The weaving school, attached as a grant-in-aid institution to the Tiruvalla Vernacular High School from Karkatakam 1093 to Chingam 1099 and conducted departmentally till Minam 1099 on account of certain disputes between the managers, had been abolished. The school should be revived either as a private or a departmental institution. Arrangements should also be made for the teaching of other suitable local industries.

The member deprecated the proposal to abolish the Hindu Girls' School near the Tiruvalla temple. The school was highly necessary at the place and the people had informed the Inspectress on the occasion of her last visit that they would bear half the cost of the reconstruction of the school building.

DEWAN: On the road from Tiruvalla to Mavelikara, the Palattankuzhi and Manippuzha crossings are proposed to be bridged. The necessary estimates are being prepared and allotments made in the budget.

In regard to the bringing of water into Tiruvalla by cutting canals from the Manimala river, the Chief Engineer says that, of the routes mentioned, the second *viz.*, connecting Pulikeezh river with Manippuzha is the one which will be more fruitful. That is the one in regard to which investigation is over. In the other case, investigations will have to be conducted.

You have referred to a number of minor roads and bridges inside the town. We are attending to these things one by one. The bridge at Peringara on the Mepral road has to wait until the bridges on the Mavelikara road are completed.

Then about the grant-in-aid weaving institute attached to the Tiruvalla Vernacular School, we had to stop that grant on account of certain disputes between the managers. I have myself inspected the weaving school. I found that the vocational education that was being given there was very unsatisfactory. There were no signs of any weaving being conducted in the institution. I understand that there is a grant-in-aid weaving school at Tukalasseri.

The member said that there was no such institution now.

DEWAN: Not a Government school, but a grant-in-aid school which receives a grant of Rs. 20.

The question of imparting vocational education in schools meant for general or literary education is a larger question which will have to be considered hereafter. As I told another member earlier in the day, it is a large question which will be taken up when orders are passed on the report of the Travancore University Committee. The curriculum will have to be changed in Secondary and even Vernacular schools and an organised attempt made to introduce vocational education on a somewhat wide scale. We will not be able to do that until we change the curriculum, which is not possible so long as the schools prepare students with the Madras University Examinations as the ultimate goal.

You can have a grant-in-aid weaving institution. I have no objection to ask the Director of Industries to render you all necessary help in the matter of organising one.

In regard to the Hindu Girls' School, I have no information of any proposal before Government for its abolition. I do not think there is any such idea.

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